

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION
(LIGHT INFANTRY)



Combat Life Saver

Module 1: Overview

OBJECTIVES:

What this course is, and what it isn't

Battlefield deaths due to Ground Combat

Introduce the CLS to the three stages of casualty care (Tactical Combat Casualty Care [TCCC]).

Understand how to “TACTICALLY” manage a patient during first phase: “Care under fire”

Combat Lifesaver: What is that?

- The Combat Lifesaver is a Non-Medical soldier trained to provide battlefield emergency care as a secondary mission. He does “NOT” replace the Combat Medic. His PRIMARY mission is his COMBAT mission.
- Who is the biggest lifesaver on the battlefield today? **You!**– The Primary person at the point of wounding.
- What is the “BEST” medicine on the battlefield? Motrin? An IV?
 - No! The best medicine is Superior Firepower

What this course IS about

- Teaching basic, practical life-saving techniques that all non-medical soldiers can use on the battlefield
- Teaching not only the “what” but the “why”
- Breaking some bad habits that we (the medical world) and the Army (i.e. JRTC) have taught you
- Keeping you doing what you are trained to do

Deaths due to ground combat

- In Iraq and Afghanistan today, if a soldier makes it to a MTF (Medical Treatment Facility) alive from the “point of wounding”, they stand a 96% chance of living. TCCC doctrine has lowered the Died Of Wounds (DOW) rate on the battlefield.
- 90% of all combat deaths occur on the battlefield before definitive treatment is reached (example, a MTF). Most of these deaths are “Un-Avoidable”, and “CANNOT BE PREVENTED” by you or a medic.
- What are the major injuries we can impact at our level? Injuries which soldiers are dying from that can be prevented?

WHAT CAN WE DO??

- Stop severe bleeding (Hemorrhaging)
 - Relieve Tension Pneumothorax
 - Restore airway
- SO WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE? WHAT DO I DO IN EACH?

Tactical Combat Casualty Care

- Care Under Fire
 - Minimal casualty assessment
 - Immediate treatment of extremity hemorrhage
- Tactical Field Care
 - Rapid trauma assessment and immediate treatment of life-threatening injuries
 - More detailed trauma assessment and stabilization of non life-threatening injuries
- Casualty Evacuation Care
 - Ongoing casualty assessment (Trends)

TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE (TCCC)

■ *“CARE UNDER FIRE”*

- In this phase, you are under direct hostile enemy fire, and attention must be directed to overwhelming the enemy, and ONLY concentrating on major bleeding noticed
- If major bleeding is noticed on a casualty, and you can reach them safely, apply a tourniquet, and then rejoin the fight. If the casualty can continue to fire as well, they should be encouraged to do so.
- If you cannot reach the casualty because of direct hostile fire, do not expose yourself. Tell soldier to lie still, and return fire. Extract him when enemy is overwhelmed.

Care under fire (cont'd)

- Remember you and the casualty are still under effective hostile enemy fire
- Return fire as directed or required before providing medical treatment
 - Determine if casualty is alive or dead.
 - Provide tactical care to the live casualty.
- Only critical equipment gets secured with casualty

Care Under Fire (Cont'd)

- Check Casualty for Bleeding (If you are able to do so at this time- this should take no more than 45 secs-1 minute)
- If life-threatening bleeding from an extremity is present, then place a Tourniquet on immediately (USE THE CASUALTIES TOURNIQUET FROM HIS IFAP PACK)

TACTICAL FIELD CARE PHASE

- **In this phase, direct hostile enemy fire has been suppressed, or you and the casualty are in place of moderate safety.**
- **In this phase you have the time to conduct your secondary mission of treating this casualty.**
- **Recheck bleeding control measures (Consider placing a Pressure bandage on wound and removing Tourniquet).**

Tactical Field Care Phase (Cont'd)

- **Determine Casualties level of consciousness**
- **Check for open chest wounds**
- **Open and secure casualties airway**
- **Take measures to treat for shock**
 - **Treat other injuries**

Tactical Field Care Phase (Cont'd)

■ COMMUNICATE!!!!

- Brief your unit leader on casualties injuries and condition**
- Initiate a Field Medical Card**

■ Monitor the Casualty

- Recheck on the casualty every 5 minutes.**
- Recheck casualties breathing, bandages, and IV site.**

COMBAT CASUALTY EVACUATION CARE

- If casualty is being evacuated, prepare them for evacuation.
- Cover them with a blanket to keep them warm
- Prepare and transmit a “9 Line” Medevac request
- If casualty has to be moved, prepare the SKEDCO litter, or TALON II litter.
- If casualty is going via non-medical vehicle, arrange vehicle for their transport.

QUESTIONS?